

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY ROUTE MATTERS
New Public Road Connection
Resolution S-704 and S-705
12-Ora-73-KP 8.7/12.6 (PM 5.4/R7.8)
12-Ora-405- KP 16.4/20.0 (PM 10.2/12.4)

CTC Meeting: May 10, 2000

Prepared by:
Robert L. Buckley
Program Manager
Design and Local Programs
(916) 654-3858

Agenda Item: 2.3b.(1)

Original Signed By

W.J. EVANS, Deputy Director Finance
May 1, 2000

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

Recommendation

The Department of Transportation recommends the California Transportation Commission approve the attached Resolution S-704 and Resolution S-705. The resolutions approve new public road connections for an on-ramp at Hyland Avenue to northbound Interstate 405 (Kilometer Post 16.4/20.0 [Post Mile 10.2/12.4]) and an off-ramp from northbound Route 73 at Harbor Boulevard (Kilometer Post 8.7/12.6 [Post Mile 5.4/R7.8]), in the City of Costa Mesa, in the County of Orange.

Recommended by: *Original Signed By*

BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director, Project Development

Issue

The City of Costa Mesa and the Orange County Transportation Agency have requested approval of new public road connections for an on-ramp from Hyland Avenue to Interstate 405 and an off-ramp from northbound Route 73 to Harbor Boulevard as part of operational improvements to Route 73 and Interstate 405. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto.

Background

The Hyland Avenue new public road connection was discussed in the Project Report/Project Approval Report dated January 15, 1992. This report identified the construction of the Hyland Avenue/South Coast Drive northbound I-405 on-ramp between the existing Harbor Boulevard and Euclid Street interchanges to

redistribute traffic along I-405. A Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact was approved January 8, 1990. In July 1993, FHWA approved the new connection request for this on-ramp.

The Harbor Boulevard new public road connection was discussed in the Project Report dated October 13, 1996. The report identified the construction of an off-ramp to Harbor Boulevard on the north side of the northern terminus of Route 73. The Harbor Boulevard off-ramp was included as one several needed improvements:

- Widening of Route 73 by adding one HOV lane and one mixed flow lane in each direction, and adding auxiliary lanes near the Route 55 interchange.
- Construction of a new northbound Route 73 to southbound Route 55 connection.
- Operational improvements to I-405 between Bear street and Euclid Street, including auxiliary lanes, realignment of local access ramps, and widening the connectors at the Route 73/405 confluence.

The overall improvements identified in the I-405/73 study area have a total estimated construction cost of \$42,201,000 and a total right of way cost of \$7,785,000. The project is programmed in the 1999/2000 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for \$42,873,000. The Orange County Transportation Agency will fund \$708,000 and the City of Costa Mesa will fund \$6,405,000. The estimated cost of the Hyland Avenue on-ramp is approximately \$1,800,000 and the estimated cost of the Harbor Boulevard off-ramp is \$2,300,000.

The Orange County Transportation Agency completed the Negative Declaration of the Environmental Impact on October 22, 1996 and the FONSI was approved by FHWA on October 29, 1996.

Discussion

Route 73 is a component of the State Freeway and Expressway System and the National Highway System. This freeway connects I- 405 in Costa Mesa with MacArthur Boulevard in Irvine. The California Highway Commission on November 27, 1962 adopted State Route 73 as a freeway in the County of Orange. It is a four-lane facility and currently provides two mixed flow lanes in each direction. The San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor (SJHTC), a 22 kilometer extension of Route 73, is being constructed southerly from Birch Street and will connect to I-5 near San Juan Capistrano. The SJHTC will be constructed initially as a six-lane toll facility with three mixed flow lanes in each direction.

Interstate 405 is a component of the Interstate Highway System and the National Highway System. This interstate loop extends from Irvine to San Fernando, linking to I-5 at both ends. The California Highway Commission on February 19, 1953 adopted Interstate 405 as a freeway. This facility provides four mixed flow lanes and one HOV lane in each direction throughout Orange County between I-5 and I-605. Auxiliary lanes are provided at certain locations between high volume ramps. Two auxiliary lanes are provided in each direction between Route 73 and Harbor Boulevard. Only one northbound auxiliary lane is provided northbound between Harbor and Euclid.

In 1992, it was recognized that three separate projects (Route 73 Widening, Route 73/Route 55 Interchange Improvements, and the I-405 Freeway Access Improvements west of the 73 confluence) were geometrically

interconnected. Therefore, a coordinated approach to all three projects was developed and a single project report addressing all three projects was developed.

I-405 currently suffers from peak hour congestion, with LOS F (unstable flow conditions) predominating in the peak direction (southbound in the morning peak hour and northbound in the evening peak hour). Existing Route 73 does not generally suffer from peak hour congestion due to lack of capacity on Route 73 itself. However, during the evening peak hours, northbound Route 73 is subject to congestion due to the backup from congested conditions on northbound I-405. The evening congested period extends approximately 2.5 hours. In addition, traffic volume will increase after the completion of the SJHTC and it is estimated that with the additional traffic, I-405/Route 73 confluence will operate at a LOS F.

The northbound 365 meter weaving section between the existing Fairview Road on-ramp and the existing Harbor Boulevard off-ramp is not sufficient in length to accommodate existing or forecast weaving volumes. This short weaving section reduces the effective capacity of the freeway in this link. In addition, weaving volumes entering I-405 from Route 73 conflict with Harbor Boulevard off-ramp traffic in the same segment as Northbound I-405. The combinations of extending the Fairview Road off-ramp from I-405 to also serve Harbor Boulevard and the new off-ramp from Route 73 directly to Harbor Boulevard would eliminate this conflict.

The direct on-ramp from southbound Harbor Boulevard to I-405 will be eliminated. Traffic from southbound Harbor Boulevard can use the proposed Harbor Boulevard access to I-405. Construction of the new Hyland Avenue on-ramp will provide the needed storage capacity for the northbound on-ramp traffic and improves the level of service at the Harbor Boulevard/South Coast intersection.

Without the overall proposed project improvements in the January 15, 1992 Project Report/Project Approval Report and the November 13, 1996 Project Report congested conditions on I-405 will extend to two to three hours per day in each direction. Northbound route 73 will become highly congested in both the a.m. and p.m. peak hour.

The Commission has considered the Negative Declaration and a copy of the Initial Study has been transmitted to the Commissions staff.

Superseding Freeway Agreements are to be executed by the City of Costa Mesa at the City of Costa Mesa's May, 2000 City Council Meeting and by the County of Orange at the May City 2000 Board of Supervisor Meeting.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Resolution Authorizing
A New Public Road Connection
To the Freeway
12-Ora-405 KP 16.4/20.0 (PM10.2/12.4)**

Resolution Number S-704

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa has requested approval of a new public road connection from Hyland Avenue to Interstate 405; and,

WHEREAS, failure of the City of Costa Mesa or the County of Orange to approve Freeway Agreement shall render this resolution void; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa has completed a Negative Declaration, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has given their approval (July 1993) for the new public road connection along I-405.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that it hereby authorizes a new public road connection to Interstate 405 at Hyland Avenue, Kilometer Post 16.4/20.0 (PM 10.2/12.4), in the City of Costa Mesa, in the County of Orange; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of construction and right of way for the new connection shall be borne by others.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Resolution Authorizing
A New Public Road Connection
To the Freeway
12-Ora-73 KP 8.7/12.6 (PM 5.4/7.8)**

Resolution Number S-705

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa has requested approval of a new public road connection from Route 73 to Harbor Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, failure of the City of Costa Mesa or the County of Orange to approve Freeway Agreement shall render this resolution void; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Transportation Agency has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that it hereby authorizes a new public road connection from Route 73 to Harbor Boulevard at Kilometer Post 8.7/12.6 (PM 5.4/7.8), in the City of Costa Mesa, in the County of Orange.